

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending and have been examined in the present application.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,429,756 to Kurisu et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Among the limitations of independent claim 1 which are neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art of record is a dielectric resonator that includes a protrusion portion disposed on a bottom surface of a dielectric resonance element, wherein “a side face at an outer periphery of the protrusion portion is tilted such that an area of an upper surface of the protrusion portion adjacent the bottom surface of the dielectric resonance element is larger than an area of a lower surface of the protrusion portion.” With the structure of the protrusion portion defined in independent claim 1, the connection between the dielectric resonance element and an external circuit is strengthened. See page 16, line 6 to page 17, line 19 of the present application.

The dielectric resonator described in Kurisu et al. does not include a protrusion portion as defined in independent claim 1. The dielectric resonator of Kurisu et al. includes a supporting base having a concave cross-section. This concave cross-sectional supporting base is not designed to increase the strength of a connection between an external circuit. Rather, the supporting base provides a base having sufficient mechanical strength to avoid deformation of the dielectric resonator during manufacture. See Kurisu et al., column 2, lines 28-42. Therefore, Kurisu et al. does not teach or suggest the protrusion portion as defined in independent claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as defined in independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art of record.

Claims 2-12 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and include all of the limitations found therein. Each of these dependent claims includes additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of the claims from which they depend, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record. Accordingly, claims 2-12 are likewise patentable.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and allowance of the present application with claims 1-12 is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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